(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of the States where such women schools are being run with financial contribution of Central Government alongwith the details regarding their management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) One such news-item published in the Times of India' dated 22nd October 2003, has come to the notice of Government.

(b) The scheme of 'Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalayas' for establishing residential schools for girls, referred to in the above news-item, is yet to be approved by the Government.

Concession to SC/ST students for admission

1953. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 per cent concession of marks in minimum eligibility criteria for admission in B.Ed. course is given to SC/ST students by Universities;

(b) if so, whether such concession is also being given to SC/ST candidates in minimum eligibility requirement for recruitment of teachers in KVS etc.;

(c) if the reply to part (b) is in negative, what is the rationale of concession of 5 per cent marks given to SC/ST students in B.Ed course when they are being deprived of appearing in recruitment examination for teachers after completing B.Ed; and

(d) what steps Government propose to remove this impasse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) UGC has issued instructions to all Universities to give 5% concession in marks to SC/ST students in minimum eligibility criteria for admission to all courses.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Employment in K.V.S. or other Government Organisations is only one of the employment opportunities available to SC/ST candidates who are getting B.Ed degree on the basis of 5% concession in marks.